CLAIMS

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A method of combining results of a plurality of feature discriminating techniques applied to an article including steps of

validating one of a result of a first feature discrimination technique and a result of a second discrimination technique when said results correspond to each other,

validating or rejecting a result of said first feature discrimination technique against expected or permitted values,

validating or rejecting a result of said second feature discrimination technique against expected or permitted values, and

outputting a validated result for control of a sequential selective process while rejecting only articles where neither of said results is validated.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, including the further step of

augmenting a validated result of one of said first and second feature discrimination techniques with a validated result of another of said first and second feature discrimination techniques prior to said outputting step.

1   3.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein one of
2   said first and second feature discrimination
3   techniques is optical character recognition.

1   4.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein one of
2   said first and second feature discrimination
3   techniques is reading of machine readable indicia.

1   5.   A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said
2   machine readable indicia is a bar code.

1   6.   A method as recited in claim 3, wherein one of
2   said first and second feature discrimination
3   techniques is reading of machine readable indicia.

1   7.   A method as recited in claim 6, wherein said
2   machine readable indicia is a bar code.

1   8.   A method as recited in claim 2, wherein one of
2   said first and second feature discrimination
3   techniques is optical character recognition.

1   9.   A method as recited in claim 8, wherein one of
2   said first and second feature discrimination
3   techniques is reading of machine readable indicia.

1   10.   A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said
2   machine readable indicia is a bar code.

1   11.   A selective sequential processing apparatus
2   including
3   means for validating one of a result of a first
4   feature discrimination technique and a result of a
5   second discrimination technique when said results
6   correspond to each other,
7   means for validating a result of said first
8   feature discrimination technique against expected or
9   permitted values,
10   means for validating a result of said second
11   feature discrimination technique against expected or
12   permitted values, and
13   means for outputting a validated value for
14   control of a sequential selective process while
15   rejecting only articles where neither of said
16   results is validated.

1   12.   Apparatus as recited in claim 1, further
2   including
3   means for augmenting a validated result of one
4   of said first and second feature discrimination
5   techniques with a validated result of another of
6   said first and second feature discrimination
7   techniques prior to outputting said result.

1   13.   Apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein one
2   of said first and second feature discrimination
3   techniques is optical character recognition.

1   14.   Apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein one
2   of said first and second feature discrimination
3   techniques is reading of machine readable indicia.

1   15.   Apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein said
2   machine readable indicia is a bar code.

1   16.   Apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein one
2   of said first and second feature discrimination
3   techniques is optical character recognition.

1   17.   Apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein one
2   of said first and second feature discrimination
3   techniques is reading of machine readable indicia.

1   18.   Apparatus as recited in claim 17, wherein said
2   machine readable indicia is a bar code.

1   19.   Apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein said
2   selective sequential process is sortation of
3   articles.

1   20.   Apparatus as recited in claim 18, wherein said
2   selective sequential process is sortation of
3   articles.